IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a human Rhesus D antigen contributing to or indicative of the weak D phenotype, said nucleic acid molecule carrying at least one missense mutation, as compared to the wild type Rhesus D antigen **set forth as SEQ ID NO:41**, in its transmembrane and/or intracellular regions.

2. (Twice Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a human Rhesus D antigen contributing to or indicative of the weak D phenotype, said nucleic acid molecule
   a) carrying at least one missense mutation, as compared to the wild type Rhesus D antigen **set forth as SEQ ID NO:41**, in amino acid positions 2-16, 114-149, 179-225 or/and 267 to 397 with the proviso that said D antigen does carry not a single missense mutation leading to a substitution of phenylalanine in amino acid position 223 by valine or of threonine in position 283 by isoleucine; or
   b) carrying a gene conversion involving exons 6 to 9 which are replaced by the corresponding exons of the RHCE gene.

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the final Office Action mailed June 17, 2002. Claims 1 to 51 are pending. Claims 13 and 15 to 47 stand withdrawn from consideration as directed to an unelected invention. Claims 1 to 12, 14 and 48 to 51 are under consideration. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Regarding the Objection to the Disclosure

The disclosure stands objected to due to the arrangement of the specification and the drawings. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be held in abeyance until such time allowable subject matter is indicated. Applicants will then submit corrections to the specification or a substitute specification, as appropriate, and corrected drawings in compliance with the draftsperson's review.